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HOUSEKEEPERS' CHAT

Wednesday, June 13, 1934.

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY.)

Subject: "4-H Club Members Visit Washington." Information from the Federal Extension Service, U.S.D.A.

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Tomorrow morning Washington, D. C., will be welcoming a group of most interesting yearly visitors. These visitors are young -- almost all under twenty-- but they all promise to be important citizens in the future. And they are delegates to Washington because of outstanding achievements along their own special lines. They'll be coming from all parts of the country by train and car and bus. And they'll go straight to the Department of Agriculture grounds where tents are already pitched, ready to accommodate them for a week. You may know some of these young visitors. Perhaps there's a boy or a girl in the group from your community. If so, you should be proud. For everyone of these young people has a record in farming or homemaking, and has proved himself a leader in his group. By this time, perhaps you have guessed that the National 4-H Clubs are holding their annual encampment in Washington, beginning tomorrow. This assembly of youthful delegates comes from almost every state in the Union and represents 60,000 local 4-H clubs with a membership of nearly one million rural boys and girls.

Of course, you've heard many times about this 4-H organization. Its aim is to develop rural young people into active community leaders and teach better practices in agriculture or homemaking. Youngsters may join the club at the age of about ten and each one chooses some special piece of work that will improve his home or farm or help the community. Perhaps the project chosen for the year may be breeding better farm animals, or raising a flock of poultry, or canning, or making clothes, or redecorating some part of the home. Through such club projects the young people acquire practical knowledge, and enjoy the work as they learn. The club also offers them social life and teaches organization, cooperation and leadership. Pleasure and profit, you see, go hand in hand.

The 4-H Club is twenty years old this year. If you look back into its history, you'll find that money earned through 4-H Club projects has started bank accounts, aided college educations, built homes and established farms. But perhaps more important than these economic returns, is the fact that the club has created ambition in young people on farms and developed leadership.

Well, you'll hear about all this from the members themselves this coming week, if you keep your ears cocked and your radio tuned in. Several of the delegates will be speaking over the air from Washington on Monday and Wednesday. So listen in at Farm and Home Hour time.

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As I said before, each of these young visitors has a fine story of accomplishment. But I can't tell you a hundred and seventy-five stories today. I can only give you a glimpse of what a few of these young girls have done to earn the trip to the national encampment this year.

One of the girls who will be attending from New Jersey is Hazel Stanton. She joined the club in 1927 and has been a busy girl ever since. She chose foods as her first year project. Here's what she says about it: "After Grandmother's death, Mother had to be absent from us four or five days a week. During this time I had the full responsibility of our home and my two younger sisters. The work in the foods unit helped me to plan, prepare and serve well-balanced meals." Later this New Jersey girl chose projects in canning, room improvement and clothing. Clothing became her special interest. She says that for several years now she has made all her own clothes, including a tweed suit and a winter jacket, and she has done much of the family sewing beside. Also during the past year she has been leader of a clothing club. Many of the clothes which she has made have been exhibited at the state and county fairs.

Evelyn Potts is another delegate from New Jersey. She says that canning was one of the most helpful projects in her clubwork. The canning which she and her sister have done for several seasons supplied her whole family with fruits and vegetables and preserves. During the years in which this girl has been a 4-H member she has canned about 600 jars of fruits and vegetables and about 60 jars of preserves. Supplied by her work, her family haven't had to buy canned food.

Now let me tell you about a visitor from South Carolina. This is Mary Rayle, and her specialty has been poultry raising. She has gone at this project scientifically, studying the right care and housing of her flock, the right feeding -- she mixes her own chicken feed -- and health care -- she has learned how to vaccinate her flock against chicken diseases. She has helped twelve neighbors start and improve their poultry flocks. During her years of club work this girl has made over \$2300 from her eggs and chickens. She says that by always marketing first-class products, she has established a ready market for her eggs and birds in any quantity she has to sell. Part of the money that she makes goes to pay family expenses. The rest she is putting away for a college education.

A delegate from Indiana is Martha Goss, whose three special projects have been clothing work, junior leadership and pig raising. A cotton school dress which she made one year won first place at the Indiana State Fair and later was exhibited in Chicago. She has won many awards on other clothes which she has made and demonstrated at State and county fairs. One very useful award was an electric sewing machine. Another was a four-year scholarship to Purdue University.

I wish I had time to tell you more about these boys and girls, but as I said, listen in next week, and you'll hear several of them tell their own stories.

